

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 EUR-08 INR-05 L-01 NSC-05
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /042 R

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EUR/NE:CWSCHALLER

AF/ESP:RBDUNCAN

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R 021918Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 046173

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, NL

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: THE HAGUE 7058

1. NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE US-UK PROPOSAL FOR ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND GON CONTRIBUTION OF TWO PERCENT. ON FEBRUARY 28 NETHERLANDS EMBASSY ECONOMIC MINISTER HUIBREGTSE COMMUNICATED GON RESPONSE TO FUND PROPOSAL TO AF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMONDSON. GON ACCEPTANCE IS SUBJECT TO THREE "RESERVATIONS" WHICH WE THINK ARE UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM. HUIBREGTSE SAID SAME PRESENTATION WAS BEING MADE BY GON TO BRITISH. WE WILL CONSULT WITH THEM
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ABOUT GON "RESERVATIONS" BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT WITH GON. EXPECT CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH TO BE SCHEDULE WHEN RESPONSES FROM OTHER DONORS ARE RECEIVED.
2. ALTHOUGH-HUIBREGTSE'S PRESENTATION WAS ORAL , HE READ FROM AND LEFT INFORMAL TALKING PAPER WITH FOLLOWING TEXT. BEGIN TEXT. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE BRITISH-US PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ZIMBABWE FUND THE

NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS IN A POSITION TO EXPRESS A POSITIVE REACTION TO THE REQUEST FOR COOPERATION IN THIS PROJECT. THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION OF TWO PERCENT IS, IN PRINCIPLE, ALSO ACCEPTABLE.

HOWEVER, THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS TO THE ACCEPTANCE, IN PRINCIPLE, OF THE PROPOSAL.

(1) THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE - WHICH WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE BLACK POPULATION (INCLUDING THE MOST IMPORTANT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY) - SHOULD WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A FUND AND APPROVE ITS OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE.

(2) (A) IN THE VIEW OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT A MORE IMPORTANT VOICE THAN THE ONE THUS FAR ENVISAGED SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BLACK AFRICAN SIDE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.

(B) IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN A BROADER ATTENTION FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE BLACK AFRICAN POPULATION OF ZIMBABWE, SUCH AS HEALTH, NUTRITION, HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ETC., ACTIVITIES ON WHICH THE PRESENT PROJECT DWELLS ONLY BRIEFLY.

(3) THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND WOULD NOT PREVENT IT FROM
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EXTENDING AID TO ZIMBABWE IN OTHER WAYS (PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE ANNEXES TO THE PROPOSAL CONTAIN SOME INDICATIONS IN THIS RESPECT WHICH SEEM RESTRICTIVE). END TEXT.
VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, FUND ALLOTMENT, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE046173
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWPENBERTHY:LPR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0723
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703100/aaaadkdk.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c29807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 THE HAGUE 7058
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2936083
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND
TAGS: EAID, NL, US
To: THE HAGUE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c29807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009